

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

APRIL 1992 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - N3RR BILL HIDER (301) 424-2707
VICE PRESIDENT - ND3A ROB SHAPIRO (703) 204-2771
SECRETARY - AA4XU BEN SHAVER (703) 534-4740
TREASURER - K1DQV ROGER MINER (301) 421-9848

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. Regular business meetings alternate between Northern Virginia and Temple Hills, MD. For directions to the next meeting, see below. Or call any club officer.

PVRC CHARTER MEMBERS: W3GRF, W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX).

Charter Members are not required to pay dues.

VHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 147.00 MHz., Input 146.40 MHz.

UHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 443.15 MHz., Input 448.15 MHz.

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System:

145.51 MHz. Connect to W0YVA
145.57 MHz. Connect to N2FB
145.59 MHz. Connect to W3LPL
145.63 MHz. Connect to K3NA
147.525 MHz. Connect to N4SR

Next Meeting:

Date: 13 April 1992
Place: Church of the Nativity
5203 Manchester Drive
Temple Hills, MD
Time: 1930 Hours EDST

Check with the packet cluster or the repeater for last minute changes, if any.

DIRECTIONS TO TEMPLE HILLS MEETING:

Take the Capital Beltway to Exit 7-A. Head south on Maryland Route 5 (Branch Avenue) toward Waldorf. Immediately after entering Branch Avenue you will come to a stoplight, which is Manchester Drive. Turn right on Manchester Drive. In the middle of the block on the left hand side, you will notice the Church of the Nativity sign next to the church entrance. Go up the drive to the top and park in the church's parking lot.

Many thanks to Tony Faiola, K3WX, for use of his copier for publishing this Newsletter.

Editor: Fred Laun, K3ZO (301) 899-1235

Production and Circulation Manager: Howard Leake, W6AXX (410) 465-7008

Club Historian: Lawrence T. Fadner, W3GN (301) 725-1624

News Deadline: 20th each month.

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR...

Once again the President's Shack is missing as Bill continues to be very occupied with his new project at work. He even had Don, WA8MAZ, down in Texas for four days working on a film to ballyhoo the project. Don says travelling on executive jets suits him just fine.

The DX world is buzzing about the fact that our long-time member Don Search, W3AZD, has left ARRL. The League is being unusually close-mouthed about this subject. When I asked John Kanode, N4MM, what happened, he just answered: "Ask Don." For the record, I would like to say that I thought Don always gave 200% effort to the job. Apparently the ARRL Board of Directors held him at least partially to blame for the backlog which has plagued the DXCC Program of late. It might be well for those same Directors to ask themselves who it was that instituted all the new DXCC awards without giving Don the resources needed to handle them. The ARRL appears to be operating more and more like the U.S. Government these days: "Find the guilty party and the problem will be solved." The search for scapegoats is not becoming to the League and I hope that this is merely a passing phase. As for you, Don Search, here is one voice that wishes to say unequivocally: "Well done. Lots of luck and best wishes for the future."

Well, with the ARRL DX Contest and the CQ WPX SSB Contest over, there is a little breather in the contest season before CQM and WPXCW come along in May. After taxes have been duly forwarded to the IRS, many of us will be heading to Dayton in the meantime. I will also be flying to Los Angeles to see old college chum N6ZZ and the two of us will drive to Visalia to take in the DX Convention there. For those of you who have never been to Visalia, you are missing something very enjoyable. Everyone there is either a DX'er or contester or both. Unlike Dayton, you don't have to filter out the 2 meter FM'ers and 75 meter rag chewers to find someone you'd like to talk to. Everyone there is interested in the same things you are.

The contest forums this year will no doubt be talking about the concept "when it's over, it's over." This is the idea that there should be no further work done on the log once the contest ends: no calls corrected, no dupes removed, no search for multipliers missed - just fill out the summary sheet, pack up the diskette or log sheets, and mail them off to the sponsor. If you don't have a computer, you should keep the dupe sheet manually during the contest, and not make it up afterwards. Frankford's John Crovelli, W2GD, is, as far as I can tell, the chief proponent of this idea, and he claims that the vast majority of the Frankford members support his point of view. He claims that this concept, though articulated only recently, has always been implicit in the rules of major contests. In other words, those of us who, in the pre-K1EA CT days, spent all day Monday laboriously drawing up our dupe sheets and striking the dupes from the log were really violating the spirit of the contest rules all along. We should have left the dupes in the log for the sponsors to find and suffered the penalties thereby levied.

There are those on the other side, like Dick Norton, N6AA, and Jim Neiger, N6TJ, who advocate tape recording the contest if possible and going through the logs after the contest with the assistance of the taped record in order to weed out busted calls and dupes, in order that the log submitted to the sponsors will be as clean as possible.

The report that at least one contest DXpeditioner in the CQ WW used ONLY a tape recorder and did no real-time logging, assembling his log after the contest by listening to the tape, has brought the matter to a head. W2GD has asked the CQ Contest Committee to state explicitly that this technique is against the spirit of the rules, since the operator using it is spared the fatigue caused by log-keeping and duping in real time, and only needs to keep a band-by-band multiplier record.

What do you think? For those of you headed to Dayton, be prepared to hear about this.

DON McCLENON, W3EIS, W3IN, HC1DC AND N4IN - SK A CONTESTER

by Bill Leavitt, W3AZ

This is intended to tell of some of my experiences with Don and not to be any kind of a history of him. I first met him shortly after WW-II when NRL reorganize and we both were put into the same branch. But it didn't take "Mac" long to find all the hams in the place. At NRL Don was always addressed as Mac while outside of NRL it seemed that he was called Don by others than NRL friends. I have a feeling that in some later years he wanted to get rid of Mac. Don always brown-bagged it and at noon time he would be regaling some of the hams with the latest stories of ham related experience, dissecting the last contest or playing chess with someone. When it came to telling ham related stories he was a good and entertaining story teller.

Don was a good Sweepstakes operator. When PVRC was organized, it didn't take them long to notice him in the results. I am not exactly sure when he became a member but it probably was in 1948 or 1949. After he became a member, he was very active in recruiting other members from NRL who he could interest in contest operating. After a contest Don would spend hours analyzing the contest: what he did wrong and how he could improve his score next time. He was always looking at items such as "How much is a multiplier worth in time or contacts at different times in the contest?"; "What strategy should one use on what band to be on and when?"

He was always organizing field day operations at NRL and a couple of instances come to mind which demonstrate how he went flat out in a contest. One year the operation was at the Fredrick fire tower. It was a terrible week end with drizzle most of the time and heavy rain at night. Excellent conditions for a real emergency test. He was operating from a makeshift tent. A cot was set up along one inside wall of the tent. Someone called Don's attention to a large collection of rain water on the tent's roof. It was approaching the point of

collapsing the roof. Don's reaction was to stand up and push up on the roof dumping the water off the roof. In doing so water poured in on, I believe, Karl Medrow, W3FA who was asleep on the cot. Don was immediately back knocking off contacts without missing a beat. Later that night water started to rise in the tent. Someone pointed out to Don that the water was running under the power supply. His reaction was to turn the power supply upside down as he operated to get the electrical circuits further from the water. This was a 600 to 700 volt supply.

Another field day operation was on a farm near Sky Line Drive. To get to the location from a hard surface road one had to traverse a bumpy dirt road in very poor condition. Early Sunday afternoon a very bad thunderstorm started to move in. Everyone was in agreement that we better get out of there as soon as possible. Except Don who stayed in his tent knocking one QSO after another off. Everything was packed except Don's set up. He kept saying: "One more." Finally, Ren Collins, W3KDP, took a diagonal pliers and cut his down lead. Don came boiling out of the tent complaining that we had lost him a contact.

Don's attitude toward contest operating was the same as many of the other PVRC members of that time. This attitude of a majority of PVRC members is what made PVRC the upstart winner in those early days.

He was active in getting members on for the PVRC contests. One was Art Tool, then W3VAN, now KM3A. He would call Art up and ask whether he was going to be on. Art wasn't sure and besides he didn't have any log sheets. Don would immediately take a bunch of log sheets over to him and give a pitch of why he should get on. When Don would get back, he would say if Art gets on he'll keep going and run up a good score. And doggone

if Don wouldn't be right. Art, if you read this I hope it brings back some good memories.

Needless to say most of us in PVRC that were at NRL in those days were checked out by Don to be sure that we would be on for the contest. If one wasn't sure, he was in for a lecture. You planned your life so that you could make the contest.

If Don had a favorite band, it was 160 meters. From almost the first day that I knew him, he was telling how he was changing his 160 meter antenna so he could get out better. His lot was not large enough for a full-sized 160 meter ground plane. It was natural for him to get involved with the CQ 160 meter test after he retired. So 73 Don and good luck on the Top Band.

RANDOM THOUGHTS WHILE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE

by Don Daso, WA8MAZ

Recently, I had some spare time on my hands and was sorting through some old QSTs and CQs, looking for an article I remembered, and which was NOT in the annual December index.

This technique, akin to searching and pouncing in SS, afforded me the opportunity to re-read each issue of the year in question. Hmm.... Thirty years ago..... Here's some data, from the CQWW and ARRL DX Tests.

PVRC topped the US in club scores, with 4.8 M. Vic, W4KFC was just ahead of Lenny, W3GRF in SO scores; both made the Top Ten overall. W3MSK was top MM score, with only 8 ops; W4KXV & K3EST were 4th place in MM. W9YT slid into MS 4th place, with K9ELT (now N6ZZ) & W9SZR taking time off from school. (In fact, reading the magazines makes you wonder what W9SZR did at Madison, besides ham radio. He was in all the CD Parties, scoring near the top. Well, he's still

active; we know him today as K3ZO.)

In ARRL doings, things were somewhat reversed, with Lenny ahead of Vic. (Featured was Lenny's pre-K1EA "ALT M" paper system for keeping track of multipliers/band.) W3MSK tops in MM, both modes. Fred left the school's club station to op. at W9EWC, finishing 7th in the USA single op CW. FRC slipped past PVRC in Club Scores. I managed to be in both Novice Roundups, since I received my license DURING the first one--back then, the Roundup was like the old DX Test--running for two weeks! And, as mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin, HC1DC (Don, N4IN, ex-W3EIS) topped 'em all on CW and finished 3rd on PHONE.

An interesting hour's worth of historical ham radio note-taking.

That article? My memory's slipping: it was in 1965!

ISRAEL DX CONTEST

(with thanks to John Pescatore, WB2EKK)

CONTEST PERIOD: Saturday, 18 April 1992, 1800 UTC -- Sunday, 19 April 1992, 1800 UTC.

MODES: SSB and CW. The same station may be contacted once on CW and once on SSB on each band.

BANDS: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz.

EXCHANGE: RS(T) + QSO number starting with 001 (Israeli stations send RS(T) plus Area.)

POINTS: 2 points/QSO on 1.8 and 3.5 MHz, 1 point everywhere else.

FINAL SCORE: points X "Areas" worked

FURTHER INFO: WB2EKK

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

by Ben Shaver, AA4XU

MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING 9 MARCH 1992

The meeting of the Potomac Valley Radio Club was called to order by Vice-president ND3A at the Tysons-Pimmit Public Library, Falls Church, VA.

- Guests: N6CZG* WD4EBY* KM4FI W2TE.
(* = Elected member this meeting.)
- Members: K3RV W4RW W4RX WA8MAZ N3JT N4MO W3GN WR3Z K3WUW W3GNQ N4KW W3HVO K8OQL W9LT KE3Q WF3J KT3Y W3LPL N4ZR K3ZO W6AXX W3EMH KT4W KC4FYA KK4WQ ND3A AA4XU.

Secretary AA4XU read the minutes, which were accepted as read. Copies of the recent revision of the Bylaws were distributed to attending members. W3GN pointed out a typographical redundancy in Article 4, Section 1, which is corrected.

OLD BUSINESS

AA4XU reported that the ARRL Group Liability Insurance policy has been purchased as provided by vote of the members at the February 10 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ARRL DX Contests. The multi-multi effort at W3LPL yielded 12.5 million points in the SSB contest. K3ZO passed the 3000 QSO mark for the first time in this contest. Fred said that the ARRL is carefully checking the logged power in these contests this year in addition to checking for broken calls. W9LT pointed out that contestants who change power at different times of day may cause errors in this kind of log check by the referees. While W3HVO took an hour off for church during SSB, he left his station in the capable hands of daughter N3EBR who racked up 70 QSO's while John was away. When he returned, John discovered that the antenna had been accidentally

disconnected when he left the shack. N3EBR will be a formidable contest operator when she is provided with an antenna! (Sign her up!! --ed.) W3GNQ purchased 6 telephone RFI filters and gave them to a neighbor who had complained in an effort to avert contest RFI problems. As soon as the contest started, the neighbor called to complain about RFI. "How did the filters work?" Dick asked. "I haven't installed them yet," the irate neighbor countered.

Packet report. W3LPL. Uninterruptable power supplies have been installed at nodes where power failure was a problem. This increased the time between crashes for these nodes to as much as 80 days as compared with 5 to 10 days prior to backup power installation. New Packetcluster® software will be available in a few months and will be installed by midyear.

Elections. The following guests were elected to full Membership in the PVRC:

- Jirasak Visalsawat, N6CZG, HS1BS.
- John F. Pinckney, WD4EBY.

Program by N3JT. Jim gave an account of his recent trip to Bolivia to operate in the ARRL CW DX Contest. Unanticipated problems included high altitude acclimatization at an elevation of 12,500 feet; gear borrowed from the local radio club which included a computer that had never been tested in an RF environment, and a transceiver and amplifier that would not bandswitch on two bands; rupturing of the water line to a rooftop water tank during antenna installation with 2,000 gallons of water spilling over the roof and into windows; a local cholera epidemic with 1,000 deaths in the preceding few weeks; extremely high low-frequency absorption south of the equator which rendered the 80 and 160 meter bands virtually worthless. In spite of these disconcerting events, Jim scored 2,200 contacts as CP5/N3JT.

W3GNQ moved that the meeting be adjourned.

SCORES... SCORES... SCORES...

by Bernie McClenney, WR3E

ARRL SSB DX CONTEST 1992

CALL	CATEGORY	QSOs	BAND-COUNTRIES	FINAL SCORE
W6AXX	10M	841	98	247,254
W3CPB		181	58	31,494
W3GN		127	48	18,288
K3RV	15M	2100	131	825,300
W9LT/8		1371	112	460,656
N4MO		935	111	311,355
N3JT		235	65	45,825
K3ZJ	20M	1595	110	526,350
KE3Q		360	76	82,080
K3ZO	SO	3204	348	3,344,976
W3UJ		1075	230	741,750
AA4XU		557	185	309,135
W3HVQ		482	204	294,984
K4FPF		536	163	262,104
W3GRF		500	??	??
KM4YY		181	113	61,359
W3IUU	SO/LP	333	79	78,921
K8OQL	SOA	829	207	514,809
N3UN		730	221	483,990
W3HHG		586	275	483,450
N3II		543	217	353,493
W3GNQ		531	166	264,438
KZ3H		317	148	140,748
N3HIH		243	131	95,499
W3YY		134	85	34,170
W3GG	M/S (KA3VYN, N3FBN operators)	2281	364	2,490,852
K3DI		978	313	918,342
	(K3DI, N3JOG, WD4IEH operators)			
W3DOS		1100	210	693,000
	(K3TW, W4HU, WB4J operators)			
W3LPL	M/M (W3LPL, KA1GD, WB2EKK, ND3A, WR3E, KC3EK, W3EKT, N3GB, K3NA, KF3P, K3SO, K3RA, WA8MAZ.)	6835	607	12,446,535

I wish to congratulate four stations in the SSB Contest -- W3GG operators Aaron, N3FBN, and Noah, KA3VYN. This was their first time on as multi-single from Burt's QTH and let me tell you they did great. If only we had more operators like Aaron and Noah.

W3UJ, Henry is active year after year after year and consistently turns in good numbers (at age 76 -- ed.) We need more operators like Henry.

K3ZO Fred had a personal best in this one: He went over the 3 million mark. Congrats to Fred.

W3LPL Frank and his boys were at it again and they set a new USA multi-multi record. Anyone interested in multi-multi or multi-single should ask Frank for some great tips on how to improve your score. Frank is a great resource for all kinds of great ideas.

CONTEST NOTES

by Fred Laun, K3ZO

In using CT for the CQ WW 160 meter CW contest recently, I discovered after the contest that I had failed to log a QSO. How to enter the QSO in the proper place in the log, I wondered. CTPAK.EXE used to contain a pair of perfect utilities to do this, B2R.EXE and R2B.EXE, but after about version 7.00, when the PostContest feature was included in CT, B2R.EXE and R2B.EXE were considered obsolete and were dropped.

The PostContest feature, however, does not completely replace B2R.EXE and R2B.EXE, because if you go into the PostContest mode and log the missing contact, you have to do it at the end of the log because there is no way to insert the contact in the proper place in the log. And although CT will log the contact with the proper time and date, it will not insert it into the proper place in the log after you have recorded it in CT.

No problem, I thought. I still have CT version 6.18 in another directory on my hard disk so I copied my CQ160.bin file to that directory and typed b2r cq160 to convert my .bin file temporarily to an ASCII file. However the program refused to run because the CQ 160 meter contest was not supported by CT at the time the B2R.EXE utility was created, so B2R.EXE refused to process it.

All right, I thought, I'll make B2R.EXE think this .bin file is for a contest it knows how to

process, so I typed CT CQ160 and went through the setup again, changing the contest type to "CQWW". Unfortunately, since I had logged the contest on CT version 7.22, CT 6.18 handled the file by putting (nu) in place of all the times and not scoring anything.

Undaunted, I erased that version of CQ160.bin and went back to the directory containing CT 7.22 where my original CQ160.bin still resided. I copied this uncorrupted CQ160.bin to another directory, went to that directory and just renamed this copy CQ160-1.bin without doing anything else to it, and took it back to my original directory containing CT 7.22.

I also brought copies of B2R.EXE and R2B.EXE over to the directory containing CT 7.22. I then typed CT CQ160-1 and entered CT, changing the setup so that the contest type would read CQWW. When I went to the log everything looked fine, so I quit CT and typed B2R CQ160-1 and this time B2R.EXE did the conversion. I then entered the resulting CQ160-1.RES file with the DOS 5.0 editor, inserted the missing QSO in the correct place in the log, and saved the file.

Then I typed CT CQ160-1 again, and changed the contest type in the setup back to CQ160. The resulting version of CQ160-1.bin had my QSO in the right place and scored everything correctly, so I erased the old CQ160.bin and renamed this new file cq160.bin. Whew! A lot

of work to insert one QSO in the proper place in the log.

So, to review, here we go by the numbers. For the purposes of this exercise, we will call our bin file "CQ160.bin." If you want to insert a missing QSO in the proper place in the log using K1EA CT version 7 or above, take the following steps:

1. Make sure B2R.EXE and R2B.EXE are in the same directory as your CT version 7.xx
2. Copy CQ160.bin to any other directory.
3. Go to that directory and rename this file CQ160-1.bin
4. Move CQ160-1.bin to the directory containing CT 7.xx
5. Type CT CQ160-1 and hit "enter".
6. Go to the contest type popup menu and

change the contest type to "CQWW"

7. Exit CT
8. Type B2R CQ160-1
9. When the file conversion is finished, type Edit CQ160-1.RES at the DOS prompt.
10. Insert the missing QSO in the proper place, making the QSO number of the inserted contact the next number following the QSO just above it. Save the file and exit.
11. Type R2B CQ160-1 at the DOS prompt.
12. Following the re-conversion process, type CT CQ160-1 and go to the contest type popup menu, changing it back to "C160". Exit CT.
13. Erase the file CQ160.bin.
14. Change the name of the file CQ160-1.bin to CQ160.bin, and you're finished.

SOME UPCOMING CONTESTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

by Derek Wills, AA5BT (relayed by WB2EKK)

April 14: Combined Sprint and Chess Contest

Same basic format as Sprint, but stations must work other stations enough times to complete a chess game. On initial contact with a station exchange first moves, (station calling CQ plays White), then sprint at least 5 KHz. and begin game with second station, etc. Continue games by finding the stations again one at a time and exchanging one move. Score is number of games played multiplied by number of wins. Draws count half points. No boards permitted. CW only. Brilliancy prizes.

April 21: Old Phartes Conteste. (Over-the-Hill Gang, take note!)

Exchange latest prescription number, days since last doctor visit and full description of current medical symptoms. Each exchange must last at least one hour. 75 meters only,

use of a call sign optional. Contestants must remain alive for the duration of this 24-hour contest.

May 5: 10-10 Contest

As for regular phone 10-10 contest, except that operators giving their 10-10 numbers in "dollars and cents" are disqualified from future contests. The contest is therefore not expected to take place in following years

May 12: Belize Egoists Contest

U. S. stations may work only Belize (V31) stations. Contestants may not use MFJ equipment unless disparaging remarks about it are made as part of the exchange. Belize stations need not give callsigns or follow any usual contest rules, and flame any callers mercilessly...



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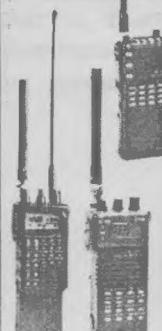
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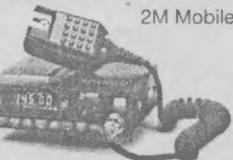
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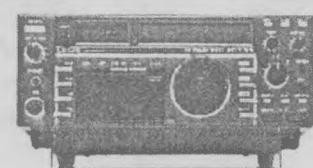
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